30th July 1962]

Separation of Tamilnad

* 144 Q.—Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a report of a speech said to have been made by Sri E. V. Ramasamy Naicker at Chidambaram published in "The Mail", dated 20th April 1962, in which he is reported to have said that he would start a campaign for the separation of Tamilnad; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. Appropriate action will be taken in the matter when it becomes necessary.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, when the Government have been very vociferous in condemning the agitation for the separation of Tamilnad by the D.M.K., why have they condoned action by their inactivity when the D.K., which is the parent body of the D.M.K., was campaigning for the separation of Tamilnad?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : The Government have not condoned anything. The Government are against the separation of every kind, and if it takes an ugly turn or if it takes a violent turn, the Government will deal with it appropriately.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, has not this gentleman been saying at almost every platform that he was only supporting the Government of Mr. Kamaraj and not the Congress? He has used very vile language against the Union Government.

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I do not know if anybody can be punished for saying that he supports the Chief Minister and does not support the party. It is not an offence. Also criticising the Union Government is not an offence.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, this gentleman has been campaigning for the separation of Tamilnad all these months, and the Government have not spoken one word against it. This is the first occasion when the Hon. Minister is saying that he is taking notice of it. On the other hand, in the case of Dravidanad Separation, the moment the resolution was out, they came out against it.

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, this is not a question. This is a speech which should have been delivered on the Appropriation Bill.

Major panchayats

*115 Q.—Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN (on behalf of Sri A. K. Thangavel Mudaliar) : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that, as a result of the integration of minor panchayats and major panchayats in the panchayat union councils, the further development works of major panchayats has been affected; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any proposal to upgrade the major panchayats into III grade municipalities?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister: (*a*) & (*b*) No, Sir.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, the major panchayats are suffering from handicaps by joining the panchayat unions. Will the Government see that at least the major panchayats are given more facilities as the municiaplities?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: What I said about municipalities applies also to panchayats. The Government are always watching the financial resources of these local bodies and they go to their assistance whenever necessary. As I said, it is not necessary to earmark any portion of the revenue for this purpose.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, as it is, the major panchayats are not getting Government assistance for any special work as the municipalities are getting. Will the Government, therefore, see that at least in future the major panchayats are given assistance?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The hon. Member may specify what are the types of work for which assistance is required. In that case, the Government will be able to examine and say what type of assistance is given and could be given.

Release of Communist leaders

* 116 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any order has been issued recently by the Government for the release of 12 Communist leaders from the prisons in this State; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister): (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. Twelve long-term prisoners belonging to the Communist Party of India who were convicted prior to 1953 for offences inspired by political motives, were recently ordered to be released by Government on a review of their cases, taking into account various factors like the period spent as under-trials, the portion of the sentence they had already served, and the remission earned.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Sir, what are the points which the Government considered in the matter of the reduction of the full term?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: As I have already explained, the term already served, their conduct in jail, and the remission they earned were all considered by the Government and they thought that these twelve prisoners could be released.